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R E V E R I E S

OF THE

H E A R T;

DURING

A T O U R

THROUGH PART OF

ENGLAND and *FRANCE*:

IN A SERIES OF

LETTERS TO A FRIEND.

V O L. I.

YE OBSERVE YOUR LAW,
I MINE.

Koran to Infidels.

L O N D O N:

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L E T T E R I.

York, 1779.

To J. S. Esq; in LONDON.

I AM arrived here, 'tis true; but how I got hither, is almost beyond my comprehension. We were raised every morning before day-light, and travelled one or two stages after it was dark; one day in particular we drove ninety miles: this, you will easily suppose, did my strength no great service, weakened as I have been with a fever, so as to be obliged to be almost lifted into and out of the chaise. It however hurt much more my mind, which

B

is

is naturally inquisitive, and desirous of viewing a country that I never travelled through before, and never may see again.

You will be surprised at our having driven thus post through a part of the kingdom none of us had ever seen. To explain this, be it known to you, that of my companions one was a young gentleman of fortune, who is exceedingly fond of rural sports, particularly hunting, the season for which is fast coming to a close; and the other, who is a most affectionate husband, had not received a line from his wife since he left the country; owing to a mistake in the direction of her letters. From hence I was carried along as fast as the chain of pleasure could drag,

drag, or the spur of anxious solicitude drive us on. One, I am convinced, had his dogs and horses before his eyes the whole way; and the other his equally beloved wife; which, considering the times, is saying as much as we can venture for the affection of most husbands. Luckily for my health we found his dulcinea at a gentleman's house some miles short of this place, where we staid two days; and although she stood in no need of a Sancho Panca to free her from the wizards, yet I cannot say so much for myself, having left it perfectly enchanted with the hospitality, friendship, and tender attention to my weakness, which I there experienced.

L E T T E R II.

York.

I HAVE here unexpectedly met an old acquaintance, who proposes to accompany me the remainder of the journey. A similarity in our tempers and pursuits caused an early friendship between us, which time and mutual kind offices have constantly served to increase. As you will perhaps often hear of him, during the tour, I would endeavour to make you acquainted with his character; but the great, nay unguarded, openness of his temper, will sufficiently do that in every occurrence. One trait in it I cannot pass over; and by describing the cause of it, you may easily guess the effect. He had formed, most unhappily

happily, a long and tender connexion with a beautiful lady. The singleness of his heart, and warmth of his passions left no room for an increase of his affection. To her he devoted every hour of his time, every thought and feeling of his soul; he believed her passionately fond of him, and was as happy as their situation would allow; when, to his utter astonishment, he found that he had been the dupe of a woman absorbed in sensuality, without feeling or sentiment; nay, she had so little delicacy, as upon a slight cause of quarrel, to forsake him, and felicitate herself on there being no tie between them; although she had borne him two children. The change this produced in him was inconceivable. A torpid indifference seemed long to bury all his

powers, except when fretfulness and
 impatience shewed a disagreeable sen-
 sibility. His vivacity, which had
 been great, forsook him; and even
 now, when apparently returning, is
 only exercised by starts, without much
 reference to propriety. How far, with
 these oddities, he will be an agree-
 able companion, you will judge suffici-
 ently as we proceed; for, as he never
 hid a sentiment of his heart, I expect
 in three days to make you better ac-
 quainted with him than you could
 be with a courtier in a thousand
 years. I pity him for the exquisite
 sufferings he has undergone, and also
 for that openness of temper, which I
 perceive will produce him more in-
 conveniences than all the worst qua-
 lities of the heart can bring upon
 a polite man. With excellent abili-
 ties

ties he will never be able to make his way in the world, and with great sincerity and good-humour he will be universally shunned. I tell him this, but he says he will endeavour to acquire a little Scotch caution, together with their rigid œconomy, unremitting perseverance, and constant desire of making every man pleased with himself; these, with a few lessons from a Mansfield, or a Wedderburn, cannot fail, he says, to make him in a short time a pliant, thriving courtly knave.

B 4

LET-

LETTER III.

York.

MY friend and I have agreed to travel together; but it is to be after our own manner; each one following his own inclinations and pursuits, without being any incumbrance to the other; so that having different acquaintances to call upon, we shall be often asunder. As I hate the minutiae of modern travellers and story-tellers, you will find it necessary to keep this in mind, in order to account for his absence or presence at particular times. You will always know him by the appellation of My Friend. We intend to go sometimes in the diligences, sometimes

times in chaises; in short, just as
whim leads us: and we shall prob-
ably thrust our noses into every
place that will admit such goodly
ones.

LETTER IV.

LETTER IV.

York.

THE day of my arrival here was, in the opinion of my friend, the Holiday of Fools. In other words, the honest men of the nation were demonstrating a ridiculous joy for the delivery of admiral Keppel, from the kindness of a Palliser, and a Sandwich. Short-sighted fools, adds he, not to perceive that this respectable duumvirate, with the assistance of all the knaves in the nation, will at last be successful in persuading the people that their favourite ought to be despised. Such is the power of perseverance, that by every mean, shallow, selfish being, constantly from day to day, hour to hour, minute to minute,

minute, inculcating this doctrine it will become at last universally believed; the men of sense, integrity, and genius, not chusing to enter the lists with such despicable irrational antagonists; or, as often happens, being tired out by the incessant teasing of fools.

This is his opinion; the fulfilling of which is left to futurity. Let that happen as it may, I can declare I never saw more heart-felt rejoicing than there was on the occasion, and the unanimity was not amiss, there being but three dissentient voices in the whole city. I made a shift to see the illuminations, and afterwards went to the tavern, where a vast concourse of gentlemen attended on the occasion. Here my friend had an opportunity of toasting his favourite memories

mories of Joshua and Elijah; one of whom put to death thirty-one kings, and the other eight hundred and twenty priests.—hurra! hurra!

LETTER V.

L E T T E R V.

York.

GIVE you a description of York ! you require, my good Sir, an impossibility. Do you think that in a few days I can have acquired a knowledge of a city which contains upwards of twenty churches within its walls ; the second city in England ; a city abounding with as great a variety of character as fancy in her most whimsical humours would desire for her amusement ? Shall I, who came hither without spirits or strength, attempt a painting which would require so much of both ? But, as these excuses will not suffice, let me attempt to draw the picture, and then we will view it in all lights and situations,

tions, to discover whether it merits a place in your collection.

York then contains nine or ten thousand inhabitants, the fashionable part of which appear to be vastly the majority, as I have not seen a busy face since I arrived here ; and you know I delight greatly to peep into faces, as I look upon them to be the signs shewing what ware is kept within ; and all wares not being for my market, I pass by those whose signs I do not like, without stopping to cheapen the commodities. How many in the world do heedlessly the same ? but then they consider the dress and address as the only visible marks to judge by. Hang such judges ! exclaimed I ; but in my warmth I forgot that in London there

there would scarcely be philosophers enough to execute the remaining inhabitants. 'Tis a rare world for taylor, dancing-masters, hair-dressers, and milliners; be re-touched therefore by your posture-master, if you mean to come hither; for unless you can dance, or be superlatively entertained with a miserably acted play, or a strumming concert, I do not see what you can do at York: the industry of Augustin, Haller, or Viner, could not find employment.

What! you exclaim, have they no business? are they never tired of walking about all day, with their hands in their pockets, or dangling by their sides, staring at every one they meet, asking what is the news, and saying, that it is the finest winter

ter ever known; or in the evening poring over spotted pieces of paste-board? I swear, by the genius of Diogenes: not at the time when he gave that famous reply to Alexander which has been mistaken by all the world, and which was the only delicate answer and lesson to a conqueror who daily *took from thousands what he could not give them again*, their lives: but by Diogenes, when basting, banging and belabouring his tub with such a devilish clatter and hurly-burly that he might have been heard all over the Stock-Exchange, or Newmarket meeting, even at the throngeft hour of gambling, because, when his fellow citizens were all employed, no work had been allotted to him. What is it that I meant to swear? for, like the modern oaths of office, the form is

is so long that the substance is forgotten. Oh ! I recollect, 'tis that rather than be constantly idle, I would be a coal-heaver in London, a miner in Cornwall, or a rasper of logwood in Holland ; in short, any thing but one of those heroes who, for sixpence a day, make a trade of cutting the throats of those whom they never saw before, and who never offended them.

C

LET-

LETTER VI.

York.

SO much for the gentlemen of York: though, by the bye, it may puzzle any one but you to find out that I have said any thing concerning them. As for the people in trade, they evidently bear the marks of subjection on their foreheads. In a town, no way concerned in traffic, crowded with persons living upon independent property, and where no trader is above the rank of a shopkeeper, this depression has a sufficient cause. In reality, none of the mercantile part of the town presume to mix with the gentry, even in the coffee-house; by which means the politeness of the one is accompanied

complicated with distant hauteur, and the attention of the other borders upon servility and meanness.

From them let us turn to the women. Bless me! what a swarm of old maids do I espy. Has York any peculiar privileges allowed to them? that apparently all of that class in the nation should repair thither? Do not other towns allow them to scandalize their neighbours? but especially the handsome part of their own sex. Are there no pools of quadrille in other places for the evenings amusement, nor formal visits for the morning; nor strong waters; nor — but, perhaps, we are to look to the other sex for the reason. Let the men of York, not me, answer it.

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L E T-

LETTER VII.

York.

WHAT think you of my picture of this place? or, what judgment can you form of it from so miserable a daub? viewing it both in front and profile 'tis execrable; and you will naturally say, it is only the resemblance of the peevish feelings of a sick man. The truth is, I know nothing about the city; having, as yet been in no house but my host's and the coffee-house; whither I sometimes stagger to hear the news from London. I have therefore taken the liberty of most travellers in describing the character of the polite part of a nation from the manners of the refuse who associate with strangers.

gers, in order to share their plunder. By such shallow-headed uninformed voyagers every man in France is made a knave, and every woman a courtesan; all feeling is taken from the breasts of the most honourable people; all friendship from the best natured; and truth, integrity, and gallantry (don't put your hand to your forehead, as if I meant love-matters) are made utter strangers in a place most peculiarly their residence.

From whence then did I draw my picture of York, you ask? from my barber, whilst performing the double office of shaving and dressing my hair. These take up time enough to allow him to give me the information necessary for the piece, together with a quantity of private scandal suffi-

cient to enliven the whole. Let therefore every traveller, hereafter, in imitation of me, give the source of his knowledge, and the world will not be so often deceived, and ascribe the manners of friseurs, dancing and fencing-masters, whores, pimps, and bawds, to the refined¹ part of a nation. This might also save us a world of trouble, in wreaking the most low unmannerly epithets upon a nation, as soon as our king, in his great wisdom and love of humanity, chuses to declare war against it; since we should find from every authentic information the inhabitants to be men very like ourselves, only a little more polite and civilized. But, huzza for Old England, the French are all miscreants, and perfidious hair-dressers or dancing-masters !

LETTER VIII.

L E T T E R VIII.

York.

YOU ask from me a descriptive list of my female acquaintances in York? Shall I begin by describing my host's wife, a sensible agreeable lady, with all the truly feminine accomplishments, and tremblingly alive to the finer feelings of her sex.

Or shall I describe her companion, a young lady fallying forth in all the conscious pride of triumphant beauty, like the white horse in the Revelations, conquering and to conquer. As this is a species of beings I never admired, I leave her to the handsome gay young fellow who dangles after her; and whom, but for

his good-nature and excellent sense, you would pronounce the greatest of fops. They are, however, fit company for each other, and it would be a great pity to interrupt their tête-à-tête; though, by the bye, I have frequently attempted to do it, by advising him not to be so very particular, unless he charitably meant to spoil her coquetry, and make a good notable housewife of her, by marrying and taking her to the country.

Next in my list come two sisters, daughters to as hospitable a good-humoured gentleman as the country ever produced. These strive, with the utmost kindness, by means of their harpsichord, and more agreeable voices, to harmonize my mind, as yet considerably

siderably out of tune, through the weak state of my health.

The last is a very young creature, gentle as a lamb; whose lively laughing countenance, and innocent sportive eyes, attract your notice, so much as scarcely to allow any effect to her fair complexion and exquisitely nice person.

You see my collection is small, but like that of every nice virtuoso is select, and, what you cannot say of a number of London ones, above all price. I shall therefore leave its native beauties to set it off, which they must infallible do to greater advantage in the country than they could in London, where excellence is sacrificed to shew, and intrinsic merit to superficial splendor.

L E T.

L E T T E R IX.

York.

I ONCE knew a foldier, who thought that the duties of humanity could not be abrogated by a military oath ; and, to the immortal honour of our country, in one hundred thousand well paid troops, there is one at present, who rather than be in a passion, because his prince is so, and commands him to go three thousand miles, and assist in scalping, tomohawking, and slaughtering man, woman, and child, who will not firmly believe that he, and his counselors, alias place-men and dependants are infallible, and have a right to pick their pockets, or put them to death, just as to them, in their great wisdom,

wisdom, shall seem meet; who rather than perform so reasonable and religious a command, has thrown up the emoluments of his commission; aye, and even his share of American plunder, which at a time that all is dedicated to legal plunder is, let me tell you, no inconsiderable object. But this is a nobleman, and therefore, I suppose, is thought by the rest of the army no fit object for their imitation. How happy should I be in the conversation of such a man, as I should not have all my feelings of humanity torn to pieces every moment, by boasts of the destruction of their fellow-creatures; no, I mistake, 'tis only Lord Effingham, who considers mankind as his fellows. Such a man I place next in my esteem

to

to Gustavus Vasa, I had almost said ; but Gustavus forfeited his patriotism and disinterestedness when he put the crown upon his own head, which he had just torn from another's. I must therefore place my soldier far above him, and next to Andrew Doria or Timoleon, who scorned to enslave his fellow citizens, even tho' their own universal wishes and consent, would at first view have seemed to varnish over the blackness of the crime. But with his Lordship I am unacquainted, and death has torn from me my beloved friend, every action of whose life convinced me that he only took up arms to defend the weak from rapine, murder, and violation. With what pleasure did he dedicate his attention to soften the the unavoidable rigours of war, even

to the invaders of his country, pouring balm into his wounds, and relieving their wants to the extremity of his fortune.

Alas! dear Will, how would'st thou now be afflicted to see thy fellow soldiers employed to kill their countrymen in a region where all thy corps received formerly such extraordinary instances of kindness, and more than Hibernian hospitality? How would thy benevolence be shocked by hearing of savages of India, and Germans, perhaps worse, because more instructed in the business of methodical murder, paid and authorised by ourselves, to shed that blood thou would'st have spilled the most precious of thine to save.

Alas,

Alas, poor Will! for poor thy philanthropy always kept thee! full many a time, and dearly, have I paid for that fondness for a soldier's company, which thou implanted'st in my breast. How strong are the prepossessions which youth imbibes, when even yet, notwithstanding all that my reading, reason, and philosophy tell me to the contrary, I look at a soldier with pleasure, as a blessing to the community; and never hear a drum but my heart beats in unison with it.

I to-day met an officer, who brought all these feelings strongly to my remembrance; but, as I find myself too grave, I shall reserve him for the subject of my next letter.

L E T-

LETTER X.

York.

WOULD you think it possible that any one could be so hardened in the trade of war, as to boast of having put to death a number of persons unarmed, unresisting, and even on their knees begging for mercy. This difficultly-supposeable case was to-day realized by an officer high in commission, who bragged of having performed this notable exploit upon the Lieutenant-Colonel, and many others of Lady Washington's Dragoons. I was relating this to my friend, who declared, that he would not think his own throat safe in such company; and gave it as a reason, why he never went to the camp or to court,

court, that if the national salvation depended, like Sodom's, upon five persons being found there who would not act so by all the Americans, he was convinced this island must infallibly go to the bottom of the sea, and there accompany its former neighbour, the great continent Atlantis ; the inhabitants of which seem to have been as fond of war and conquest as our own.

With all due deference to my friends, I cannot think an old officer in private life so unworthy a character. As to the young ones, who have never seen a campaign, his opinion of their insolence and vanity, their affectation of bravery, duelling, and debauching modest women, is not so very indefensible : but
a veteran

a veteran officer is modest, courteous, humane; and for honour and integrity may be admitted into a gentleman's family, who even has a wife or daughters. Pity that his trade should be fighting; and that, in the execution of what is called his duty, or in a battle, he has as few reflections on the miseries, enormity, and viciousness of war, as any of those execrable machines called common soldiers; whom we construct with musquets, bayonets, red coats, fierce cocked hats, and high sounding words; wind up with wine or spirituous liquors; and set a going down the great direct infernal high road, with drums, trumpets, and artillery.

D

L E T.

L E T T E R X I.

York.

I RIDE out every day for the re-establishment of my health, and am exceedingly fortunate in having by accident pitched upon that part of the kingdom which best answers my purpose. Both above and below this town there is on each side of the river a continuation of beautiful flat meads, which they call Ings ; I suppose from some old Saxon word. A great part of these are common-lands, so that there is no interruption to the traveller. In a wet season they are, I am informed, overflowed, or at the best swampy and disagreeable ; but at present they are
much

much more delightful for exercise than the highways.

I have remarked that the person who rides merely for health is frequently disappointed. The mind, as well as the body, must be employed, or listlessness soon renders them both languid and fatigued. The instruments of labour should be the emblems of health, not dogs or serpents; and we should sacrifice our coaches and chariots instead of a cock to that respectable deity. As I am not strong in either body or mind, I esteem myself peculiarly happy in having found an amusement which, without tiring my mind, keeps it in such suspense, as to render it always interested. Together with a couple of excellent hunters, I

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have

have the command of half a dozen beautiful pointers. The season for slaughtering the feathered natives of the field is now by law expired : I therefore enjoy my sport without a rival. My dogs I cast off wheresoever I expect game, and follow them from field to field, sedulously marking their sagacity in perceiving the slightest traces of the partridge ; the keenness they discover on approaching his haunt ; a keenness, however tempered with the utmost caution, lest they should happen to spring the bird. I observe the sneaking look and gait with which they approach me, whenever they have unawares committed this, or any other fault, expecting their usual chastisement. My correction, however, goes no farther than a few chiding words,

words, and I perceive myself a great favourite with them ; though I believe I shall not be so with their master, for spoiling his dogs.

I long, however, for more active sport ; and though I feel great satisfaction in comparing my harmless frightening of the game, with the diversion of those two-legged animals in the country, who seem born for no other purpose than their destruction, "*Feras consumere nati* ;" yet I imagine I shall get over my scruples so far as to accompany some of the neighbouring 'squires a hunting.

L E T T E R XII.

York.

I HAVE made an addition to my acquaintances in York; if paying and receiving the few transient civilities which places of public resort allow may be called acquaintance. The first night I was at the concert I could not avoid observing the peculiar affability and elegant behaviour of a lady I saw there. Whether by means of my countenance she perceived my opinion and ideas concerning her or not, I cannot tell; but we have never met since without saluting and chatting together a short time, if suitable. You cannot conceive how flattering it is to be taken notice of by a lady, more distinguished
by

by her manners, than even by the superiority of her fortune. She perceives me a stranger almost without acquaintances, and void of strength or spirits to acquire them, and kindly seems to afford me her assistance to dissipate the gloom of melancholy solitude ; for solitude it is, even in the midst of a crowded assembly, to have no one to converse with. 'Tis only those of the finest sensations that can know the feelings of a stranger in such situations, and only those of the best hearts, at least in this kingdom, who can put themselves to the inconvenience of taking the only method of relieving him from the embarrassment.

To be a stranger in England, and to be treated with attention, is as rare

a thing, as in the like circumstances in France not to attract the regard of the whole company. Which is the most valuable characteristic of a nation, I leave to dull plodding philosophers, who know nothing of the joys of life; which is the most agreeable, I leave to all who have not ambition enough to be tyrants, or insensibility enough to be soldiers. However the question may be decided, the cause is obvious. In France the women polish the manners of all the youth, and in turn have their taste formed by the most sensible and learned part of the men; so that a lady of any fashion never thinks her parties complete without the presence of some of those who are most remarkable for their literature. With all due humility, therefore, it may be submitted

mitted to the wisdom of our country gentlemen, whether it would not conduce as much to our happiness to associate a little with our women, instead of driving them away after every meal, even although thereby we enjoy the supreme felicity of the present fashionable toasts and discourse. I am also inclined to believe that those of either sex, who converse little with the other, become strange sort of animals; the females indeed have the advantage, and it seems to be from the males that Swift drew the picture of his Yahoo's.

LETTER XIII.

L E T T E R XIII.

York.

H A D Nimrod been with me to-day, I am apt to think his mighty huntership would have been flung out. How could he procure horses fit to enter the field with those of a country where for centuries the improvement of their breed has been made a science; all his cattle would appear asses to them. You will see by this, that I have been at a fox chase.

How shall I describe the glorious, the enchanting sport, a diversion fit for kings, and only to be equalled by the other royal sport a battle. Had you seen us all with
 hearts

hearts beating and eyes intent upon
 the bog where the dogs were cast off,
 the agitation with which the smallest
 chirrup affected us; whilst the melo-
 dious voice of the huntsman inspired
 every heart with joy, you would have
 imagined the fate of empires depend-
 ing: but what is that to the scene
 which opened on the foxes breaking
 cover? whip and spur we all went
 off, over hedge, gate, and ditch, thro'
 bog and slough, helter-skelter, like so
 many of Milton's devils at the uproar
 in Pandemonium. Here a horse was
 staked; there lay a man rolling in the
 mud. By heavens, 'twas great! Our
 field, which consisted of an hundred
 horsemen, was soon drawn out into a
 string of two miles in length, of which
 the foremost were just enabled to fol-
 low the dogs by their distant sound,
 or

or by enquiring of every man we met, which way they went? at last old Reynard began to grow tired, and the fortunate few who rode manfully, and were well mounted, got in with the hounds. Then to see the contest, when the fox was a tearing by the dogs, who should be so happy as to save his stinking brush, that he might bear it home like an Indian scalp, as a testimony of his having borne his part in worrying to death a poor defenceless fellow-creature! What a glorious reward for all the fatigue, dirt, and danger. 'Tis superior to the Garter, and only rivalled by the Bath, that bloody ensign of cruelty.

LETTER XIV.

L E T T E R X I V .

York.

HAVING given you a description of a chace, allow me now to introduce to you an English fox-hunter. My own knowledge of him is indeed so slight, that I should be discouraged from the attempt, were not my friend so kind as to assist in the description; and where the traits in his character are so singular and different from those you meet in the city, that the slightest view makes you fully acquainted with him. Let us then accompany him for a couple of days, and we shall see the way in which he spends the greatest part of his life.

During

During the season, he rises about three or four o'clock on the hunting mornings, having fifteen or perhaps twenty miles to ride to the cover where the dogs are to be cast off. This he performs on some ordinary hack or poney, having sent his servants and best horses with the dogs to the ground the night before. Here the whole party take a yawning breakfast, after which the dogs being led to the cover, are there cast off in search of the fox; the two-legged animals that accompany, making all the noise they can with harking and hollowing, to encourage them in searching for the stinking vermin.

A-propos; do you think I durst call their favourite so before them? I should certainly be fined a pint bumper

bumper of wine for such insolence ;
 their common mode of punishing all
 delinquents. And should I be so de-
 void of country manners, or atten-
 tive to my constitution, as to refuse
 this draught, I should infallibly be
 sent to Coventry.

This is a mode of punishment you
 are probably unacquainted with ; and
 as it is more severe than you can well
 imagine, I shall indulge you with
 a short description of it.

LETTER XV.

L E T T E R X V .

York.

When the sentence of being sent to Coventry is passed upon a person, not one of his former acquaintance will take the least notice of, or exchange a single word with him ; even in his own house every one looks on him as a person entirely unknown, and continues so to do, until he has made an atonement for his fault. This punishment is sometimes carried to a great length.

A gentleman, on being sent to Coventry, in the North of England, remained refractory, and to avoid the disagreeable situation of being treated as a stranger by his greatest intimates,
came

came up to London. Here his friends, being apprised of the judgment passed upon him, would not seem to know him, when he met with, or visited them. From hence he went to Bath, thinking to get rid of the persecution: there he found things in the same situation; all his acquaintances being informed by letter of the sentence. At last, finding that where-soever he went, his hell, like the devil's in Milton, always accompanied him, he returned quietly to the place from whence he set out; and, on making a proper submission, was again received into society. I must likewise mention, that whoever speaks to a person who is in Coventry, or takes more notice of him than if he were a chair, or any other piece of furniture, is immediately put into

E the

the same situation himself ; unless he make an apology, or declare it was done inadvertently.

So much for a punishment which may fit a man for becoming a disciple of Pythagoras ; and which, if universal, would be a much better guard upon the manners of society, than the fashionable mode of duelling ; whereby the delinquent need only be hero or devil enough to despise all the laws of God and man, and gloriously to rob of life the man who never wronged him, in order to be received every where as a complete gentleman, and virtuous member of the state.

Would not this punishment be worth the attention of legislators, at least such as wished rather to reform than take the lives of their subjects.

Excom-

Excommunication perhaps originally resembled it, but no sooner were the civil and ecclesiastical powers married under Constantine, than pains, penalties, and at last fire and faggots in this world, and damnation in the next, were added, in order to celebrate in a pious christian manner the Hymeneal rites. Shame, however, is now a principle left by our wise laws to school-masters and mistresses, being only fit to be used in the government of children : imprisonment, or death, are written on the front of every act of our legislature. Draco himself would blush for them ; as all his severity was exercised against a few natural crimes, whereas they have created a thousand artificial ones. Shame ! Shame ! on such blood-thirsty law-givers, if that can be a punishment to those who know it not, or consider themselves above it.

L E T T E R XVI.

York.

A S soon as Reynard has broken cover, as it is termed, away flies my fox-hunter, as swiftly as his steed can jarry him after the dogs; spurring over hedge, ditch, and gate, through bog and mire: here, perhaps, stuck fast in the mud — there flung off his horse with a broken limb, or left to run for an hour in his boots after the high-mettled animal. All this dirt, fatigue, and danger to come within a mile or two of a parcel of shrilly yelping curs, whose notes are not a thousandth part so harmonious as those of a pack of hare-hounds; being as far
from

from the melody of Theseus's tuneable pack in Shakespear, as a cat's concert, or the nightly howling of wolves. In the pursuit he is sometimes directed by the distant noise of the dogs; but is oftener obliged to enquire of every man he meets which way they went? In this manner he drives for a number of miles, if the fox runs straight onward, and the hounds do not luckily come to a *fault*, so as to allow him, and even all the less courageous riders to come in with them; and at last he is perhaps one of two or three who have the inexpressible happiness of arriving in time to see the animal devoured by their four-legged associates.

He is then obliged to gallop, perhaps twenty or thirty miles to his

dinner ; after which, between his bumpers of port, he entertains his company with the edifying description of the activity of his horses, the sagacity of his dogs, and the various ground run over by the poor fox to escape from his enemies ; 'till at last he gets gloriously drunk in celebrating his good fortune, and is carried to bed, where he lies snoring 'till the next day at noon ; and then only seems to rise with an aching head to inspect his stable and dog-kennel, and make preparations for the following day's hunt.

This, however, is only a description of him when he has been so fortunate as to see Reynard hunted and worried to death : but how shall I describe him when he has met with
a blank

a *blank* day? Then, after having beat all the covers within twenty miles, he comes home jaded, and horribly out of humour. His vacant uninformed mind can find no remedy for the chagrin with which it is devoured. The usual topics of discourse fail him; and as at other times he was scarcely a companion for rational creatures, he now deserts them totally; and, perhaps, tolling upon a couch, he fondles with his spaniels; whom he permits to lick his face and lips. If his wife or daughters venture to propose a question, he either returns a surly answer, or seeming not to hear or attend to it, in a quarter of an hour afterwards he asks, with the greatest non-chalance, whether or not they spoke. Having thus got over the hour before dinner, so tedious to all

witlefs people, he gets fullenly drunks after it, to make himself amends for want of other amusement.

As a proper conclusion to my friend's description of a fox-hunter, permit me to give you a Hunting Song, in which the propriety of sentiment may compensate for the want of poetry.

A Fox-Hunting SONG.

I.

DECEMBER is the season:

When British brains are addled;
The morning's wet and dirty,
So get the cattle faddled.

And a-hunting we will go, &c.

II. What

II.

What exercise so elegant,
As whip, and flash, and spur ?
What music so delightful,
As the barking of a cur ?
And a-hunting, &c.

III.

Whoever minds in slough or ditch
His horse or carcase sticking ?
We're champions all, who fight
the cause
Of turkey, goose, and chicken.
And a-hunting, &c.

IV.

But if perchance a Fox-chace
Should cost a man his breath ;
We're all militia captains,
So who's afraid of death.
And a-hunting, &c.

V. And

V.

And if a prig won't leave his bed
For sport so blythe and bonny ;
We'll swear he hates fatigue and dirt,
And call him Macaroni.
And a-hunting &c.

VI.

We'll wonder at his want of taste,
Since nothing so bewitches,
As living all the winter long
In boots and leather breeches.
And a-hunting, &c.

VII.

And if we break old Reynard's neck,
In pastime, han't we merit ;
But if we chance to break our own
Why, damme ! an't it spirit ?
And a-hunting we will go, &c.

LET-

LETTER XVII.

York.

THAT I may vary your entertainment, I now return to that sweet sex, which I never meet but with pleasure, and part from but with reluctance. The ladies of York are as completely fashionable as your's in London ; nay, I am assured by themselves, much more so. They have no occasion to import dressed dolls to shew them the fashions, as was formerly done from Paris to London, and more recently from the latter to America, whither we now export only red coated ones six feet high, with just as much brains as the former. 'Tis but two hundred miles, a moderate

rate

rate day and half's journey to London; and there are ladies enough of spirit to undertake that, through mere female patriotism, to bring down every week all the newest fashions and whimsies.

Visiting is reduced to as elegant forms as in the metropolis. A lady, for instance, my shoemaker's wife, goes out about mid-day to visit thirty or forty of her acquaintances; but is horribly chagrined if she meets with more than three or four at home; as thereby she is prevented from making as many calls, and leaving as many cards as she intended. The morning being passed in this manner, she has for her evening amusement, besides tea and card tables, the playhouse, a concert, and assembly

sembly every alternate week; and, above all, innumerable routs.

You are, I suppose, highly entertained with the idea of a York rout; but let me check your mirth by assuring you, that they have often two, nay sometimes three hundred genteel dressed persons at one of them. These meet to chat together in three or four small rooms; and a few of them perhaps play cards. After which they retire, not cold, but supperless, having pleased the vanity of some lofty dame, who, in her turn, by attending those of others, contributes her support to the comfortless fashion, invented as a paltry substitute for antient British splendor and hospitality. Thus, says my friend, education first, and fashion afterwards, make

make coxcombs of us all; and, though they cannot totally change our nature, they warp it so much, that it requires a nice judge to distinguish which of our actions are really and bona fide our own.

LET-

L E T T E R XVIII.

York.

NOTWITHSTANDING what was said in my last, I never could assent to Locke's opinion of our being at birth a meer sheet of white writing-paper; which is to receive all its impressions and character from education, example, and the daily occurrences of the world. For my own part, I think we more resemble a grain of wheat, or any other seed; that in whatever soil or climate it is sown, and although it is manured and managed ever so differently, will, when grown up, produce wheat alone, and not barley, or a grain different from the one originally planted. If this should seem too ploughman-

man-like a simile, lend me your musical instruments for a short time, to see whether we do not resemble them. As they lie before me, there is no appearance of their containing all the delightful music they may be made to produce, they are void of sound and harmony, which may be called their ideas : but hear them touched by a skilful hand, what melodious notes are they not capable of ; yet the tones of each totally distinct and varied from the other ? That guitar, the songster's soft accompaniment ; the flute, the echo of the woodland choir ; the devotion-raising organ ; the harpsichord, vibrating in unison with the tenderest feelings of the heart ; and the fiddle, possessor of almost all the powers of harmony : these, and innumerable other

other instruments, all equally varying in excellence, according to the original materials, the goodness of their construction, and the skill of the performers; shew most nearly the mind of man. Had I any powers of harmony in my composition, I should say I resemble the fiddle; that instrument, above all others, producing the harshest dissonance, when touched by an unskilful hand. How I came to resemble that instrument my Maker only knows; my father was one of the best toned harpsichords, perpetually in tune; any one might sound him from his lowest to his highest pitch; and however foolishly or injudiciously they touched his keys, still not one harsh discordant note could they produce. He by no means wanted passions,

F

but

but those he possessed were the gentlest, mildest, most melodious, that ever joined to harmonize with the world. I never saw him fretted but once. How did he behave? you ask. Oh! Sir, in as blundering and awkward a manner as a sailor making love to a fine lady; or a prime minister obliged to speak truth in the house of commons. He had never served an apprenticeship to scolding at St. Giles's, or to the more expert bully-backs of the present ministry; and having no malice, or even anger, in his whole nature, his expressions were without any determinate meaning. I will tell you the story as nearly as I can recollect, the impression it made on my memory not being effaced by the lapse of many years. Do not imagine I am
going

going to give his history, or draw his character; to do that I should invoke the assistance of a superior being; not one of those who ride in the tempest, and direct the storm but of him who delights in shedding blessings indiscriminately upon all the human race. I must however begin a new letter, that nothing relative to him may be mixed with lower trifling subjects.

L E T T E R X I X.

York.

MY father's servants were, I suppose, just like those of other men, good or bad, according to the government under which they were kept; but my father's could not be said to be governed at all. It happened at Christmas that he went to spend a few days with a brother-in-law, whom he dearly loved; and took my mother with him. The house was therefore left to the management of the servants: now how they could do this, who were never accustomed to manage themselves, must puzzle the wisest logician. Matters proceeded as might have been expected.

expected. A horse was ridden to death by one man to visit his mistress ; a spaniel was tied up and starved for want of attention ; and a stormy night having uncovered part of the house, the rain was suffered to continue for several days pouring into the study ; where, dire mishap ! my father's favourite bible lay open to its fury , which fell unluckily upon his most esteemed chapter, the story of the good Samaritan. This valued bible had been long in the family, and was by tradition said to belong to one of the first Reformers ; not indeed the passionate devil-defying Luther, nor the fiery implacable burner of Servetus ; but to the gentle placid Melancton. To add to these distresses, a quantity of my mother's apparel had been burned through

carelessness ; and the whole house only rescued from fire by being drenched in the contrary element. I question whether the temper of my father's favourite and prototype of Samaria would not have been ruffled by so many disasters. As for Job's, my friend thinks that it could not have withstood half so many ; and his wife would have sworn like any fish woman at Billingsgate. Even my father's temper was ruffled. " Let John and Thomas be called up to me ; I will reprove them for their carelessness." I wish heartily, brother, you may, said my uncle Charles, who came with him to return the visit ; for, to be plain, your easiness of temper makes your house one of the worst to your friends in the kingdom. This speech of my uncle's proceeded in part from the very
 bed

bed in which he was to lie, being as completely wetted in the late calamities, as if it had been exposed to the deluge of Deucalion, Ogyges, or even that of Noah.

“ You set of scoundrels varlets ! rascals ! vagabonds ! villains ! how durst you serve me so ? strip, here is your wages ! turn out directly ! ”

A noble reproof, you will say, and probably a kin to the one a red coated hero would have given in his room ; but my father wore a black one, and uttered not one syllable of it, having no such words in his whole vocabulary. “ Pray John, why have you and Thomas been so neglectful of business in my absence ? ”

fence?" John scratched his head, and his fellow servant began an apology with, "An please your reverence," but not finding in his soul one reason that could have been offered by Belzebub himself for his inattention to so good a master, shame took from him all farther power of utterance. "I see Thomas, continued my father, that if you and John had nothing to do for twenty days and twenty nights together, you would just do nothing at all; take care not to behave so again." The men went away, and in shutting the door, smiled and shrugged their shoulders at this unexpected sally. My father rubbed his hands cheerily together, and walking lightly about the room, cried, exultingly, "I think I have given them a rebuke." "That you have,

have, brother, said my uncle, with the most impenetrable gravity of countenance, and I am only surpris'd how a man of your seeming good-nature could get into so violent a passion, and be so exceedingly severe to his servants. Consider, my dear brother, that the difference between us and them is made by fortune, not nature; and that however low pride may paint them, they have the same passions, inclinations, and feelings as ourselves; not one of which they agreed to sell, when we hired their manual labour. By condescension and gentleness it is true we may purchase them all, and in a pleasing manner convert the tasked slave into the faithful affectionate domestic." By the bye, this whole speech was taken from the harrangues he had often heard

heard my father make in favour of servants; and he now used it with the most serious drollery against himself. " Indeed, brother, he went on, I think you were too severe; you carried the matter too far in your passion; and might see, by the dejection of countenance which they shewed, that you wrung their hearts with anguish." My father's triumph disappeared in a moment; to behave with severity to any one was far from his disposition; but to a servant, a person entirely in his power, who could not even venture to reply, he always thought the height of cruelty and cowardice. My uncle's apparent reproach threw him into a fit of musing. He sat down. " When you, my dear brother, whose acquaintance with worldly affairs

affairs is o much greater than mine, tell me I have gone too far, I must think myself in fault ; yet, if you consider candidly the provocation, I hope you will allow that it required a much better temper than mine to behave with due moderation. All reproof should have future amendment in view ; it should therefore be given coolly, not when the mind, heated by passion, is unfit to judge of the nature of the offence. Indeed, where is the man so unerring in his conduct, as to have a right to become of his own accord, a law-giver to others. I may retain or dismiss my servants ; 'tis the only right I have over them ; and, as I have used them ill in my anger, to make atonement, I will give them half a crown, brother,

to

to drink your health, their kind advocate ; and a holiday to drink it on."

"Give them a halter! (said a distant relation of his brother's, who sat silent 'till that moment, but with some apparent difficulty.) It is the first time, Sir, I have had the pleasure of being in your house ; be so good, therefore, as to pardon me for taking the liberty ; the scoundrels seem to deserve exemplary punishment, and you are going to reward them. Had they been my servants, I would have made them remember it while they lived ; and cousin, Charles, I cannot but be astonished that you, whom I know, and who know the world, should encourage your brother in his good-nature to such a set of rascals. 'Tis besides doing them the greatest injury,

injury, and rendering them totally unfit for the service of any human being but their present master."

My uncle Charles enjoyed his triumph, but he enjoyed it inwardly ; not a smile on his countenance betrayed his knavery. To deceive his brother was nothing ; though a man of excellent understanding, he was so ignorant of worldly matters, the meekest simpleton might deceive him ; but to impose upon his cousin, a man of the world, so dexterously, was a cause of exultation, which he could not resolve to drop ; he therefore went on with his merriment, without seeming to mind the other's interruption.

" I cannot but applaud, my dear brother, your excellent resolution ; and
must

must further congratulate you on the noble mastery you have gained in this instance over your passions. Many have wisdom enough to do right, but few have fortitude enough to acknowledge they have done wrong; more especially whilst the action and the operation of its motives are yet fresh upon the mind. And I cannot avoid taking notice of the great advantage you have made of your philosophic education, which has enabled you, in general, to hide that violent irascible quarrelsome disposition your countenance so plainly shews you to be of."

During this discourse, my cousin sat kicking his heels, and looking first at my uncle, then full in my father's face; not a trace could he there discover

cover like what his brother had described ; on the contrary all was mildness and clemency personified. A Chilian sky was not more free from storms. It was not the fat thoughtless face of a guttling alderman, nor the contented clerical one of a bishop, or the holder of a large rectory ; yet had a gentleness in it far beyond them ; a sensibility and penetration mixed with a serenity flowing from the consciousness of all being right within. Had Protogenes seen it, he would have drawn it instead of his Jafylus for the temple of peace. I think indeed he must have left his dog out of the piece, and given in its stead a lamb for the companion, which would have lost the world that famous anecdote of his making the foam of his mouth by a passionate

sionate dash of his brush, after failing often to delineate it by the most skilful touches. A more serene countenance could not possibly be designed, even by my friend Barry, who knows painting better, and has a more fertile imagination than Apelles or Zeuxis, though he will never be so rich or famous as either of them; having neither an Alexander for a patron, nor a Horace, a Cicero, or a Pliny to compliment him into fame.

My uncle was resolved to push his triumph to the uttermost, and perceiving that my mother had left the room, to give directions about some domestic concerns, he went on. " In ascribing, my dear brother, the command you have over your temper,

temper, merely to a college education, I am afraid I go too far, and mistake the foundation for the whole superstructure; as it must be owned that since you became a man of the world you have had sufficient opportunities of keeping yourself in constant practice of this virtue. What man indeed is there but would either hang himself, or become callous to provocation, if married to such a little termagant Xantippe as my sister; or had for a son such a fribblish petit-maitre as my nephew?"

My cousin now appeared confused, and somewhat alarmed; but my father was no longer to be duped. Whatever his brother had said against himself, he would willingly subscribe to, as no one had a more humble

G

opinion

opinion of himself; for which the Bleffer of the poor in spirit will certainly reward him: but he well knew my mother's good qualities, and was thoroughly convinced of the sincere affection and esteem the brother and sister had for each other. And, on looking at me as aukward a slovenly bashful school boy, as ever conjugated Amo without understanding it, and finding me at once changed by my uncle into a foppish macaroni, he could not avoid laughing heartily, and complimenting him on his descriptive talent. Matters was therefore cordially settled; and my uncle, as being better fitted for the business, was deputed to speak seriously to the servants on their late misbehaviour.

LET-

L E T T E R XX.

York.

O F what religion was your father ?
 A Christian, Sir, at least if preaching
 and uniformly practising all the philan-
 thropic affections constitute one. But
 was he a follower of St. Athanasius,
 Arius, Arminius, Socinius, or any other
 Polemical divine ? was he a member of
 the Church of England, Scotland, or
 Rome ? Did he pray drest in white or
 in black ? in short, to which did he
 belong of all the hundred sects who
 have been constantly cutting each others
 throats, and damning to all eternity
 every one who differed from them ? Gra-
 cious God, forgive us, that such a ques-
 tion can with propriety be asked by a
 Christian. Have we not irritability
 enough in our pride, and causes of

dissensions enough in our selfishness,
 Religion, the only thing given us by
 Thee to calm our turbulent passions,
 should by weak and wicked men be
 turned into the most cruel raiser of
 them all? Thou, Fanaticism, hast added
 one crime more to the primæval list of
 our first parents; a crime of greater
 magnitude, and more extensive mis-
 chief, than all the rest; and give me
 leave to say, that we are guilty of a
 degree of it whensoever we make
 ourselves followers of Paul, Apollos,
 Cephas, Luther, or Calvin; and have
 any other creed than my father's;
 which you will find in Micah vi. 8.
 "He hath shewed thee, O man,
 "what is good; and what doth the
 "Lord require of thee, but to do
 "justly, and to love mercy, and to
 "walk humbly with thy God?"

L E T

LETTER XXI.

York.

I WAS last night, for the first time, at a concert here. Had Thales been there, he would have been pleased. I do not mean that unpolished fellow Thales, who was nicknamed a wise man, because he thanked God that he was not born of a woman; though considering the unnatural subjection and mortification they are obliged to undergo in every nation but France, this would not be so much amiss, even at present: but that elegant Lyric poet, and excellent musician, Thales, the Cretan, whom Solon sent to soften the Spartan hearts, which seemed to be made of

the same materials with their money. Can you tell me, my friend, why the antient music is said to have had such superior effects to the modern? I hear you say not. Let me then disclose the secret. The sexes never mixed, but at a concert.

Had you been here, like me, after a long confinement, with your strength and spirits exhausted, and come unexpectedly into a most superb room, adorned—not with chandeliers, &c. but with above two hundred fashionable women, elegantly dressed; you would feel the power of irresistible music. It seemed to me the harmony of the spheres. Having no one to converse with, I was left at full liberty to contemplate all their charms. The universal splendor of the room, made

made me incapable, for a long time, of contemplating particular beauties; I was lost in that charming delirium which I never had experienced before but on my first entrance into Ranelagh on a remarkable full night.

When I had time and coolness sufficient to rest my eyes upon the individuals that surrounded me, I cannot but say that they gave me a very favourable impression of York. Not even in London had I seen at the most elegant assemblies a greater proportion of handsome women. It is the time of holding the assizes, and the ladies crowd into town to sacrifice more victims to the gentle placid Venus, than the men do to stern inflexible Justice. The ladies are likewise all drest to the top of the

fashion; and, however ridiculous the present mode is of adding so much wool, cap, and feathers to the top of the head, that the chin is near the center of the height ; yet to a London eye every thing else is highly disgusting : the way in which it is accustomed to view every woman of rank, fashion, and beauty, dressed, appearing in a short time the only natural and becoming one.

After the ladies were gone, I viewed the room ; but of this, as clumsy a large solid piece of architecture as ever Vanburgh designed, I shall give you no description. To descend to it, after mentioning its furniture would be in the words of my friend, as great a fall as after Franklin to mention a North ; or after Washington a Germaine.

L E T-

LETTER XXII.

York.

CAN you tell me, my dear Sir, why the antients had no goddesses of fashions? The graces are too elegant, and not sufficiently fantastical; besides, they are represented naked; the very reverse of our present whimsical goddesses, who rules the world; at least the civilized part of it; for the Indians and Hottentots pay her but little devotion. The antients, in their writings and fables, paid great deference, and many elegant compliments to the sex; making all the virtues, and honourable qualifications, females: but this flattery came not from their heart; for at the same

same time they immured their women with the greatest strictness ; so that they were only visible at their few public spectacles and religious ceremonies. It is not to be wondered at then, that the ladies did not lie under the necessity of varying their charms ; being so seldom seen, they only sought to set them out to the best advantage. There seems to be a second origin of fashion. Perhaps you will say, where have you shewn the first ? Surely, my dear friend, I need not tell you that I do not write by rule or compass, or like a grammarian, who leaves not a single word unexpressed : besides the horrid waste of ink and paper in their way, 'tis treating readers as school-masters treat dunces ; or as the present ministry treat the houses of
 Lords

Lords and Commons ; who must neither see, hear, speak, no nor even foresee, or smell out any one thing, be it ever so gross, offensive, or palpable to the lowest of the people ; except what in their great condescension they chuse to allow them. A member of Parliament being thus muzzled and hood-winked, and having all his other senses stopped up, gives us such excellent consistent schemes and votes, that France must soon be ruined. The second origin of fashion you shall have in the next letter ; this is not it, though a near resemblance ; but the manner in which Satan dresses his followers in Pandemonium.

LETTER XXII.

LETTER XXIII.

York.

THE first origin of fashions you will find, in the last letter, is from the beautiful wishing to give that variety to their charms, which our sickly depraved appetites require. The second is from the ugly and deformed. Do not be surpris'd at the assertion; for though Eve in a state of innocence, I doubt not, adorned herself with flowers, yet no sooner had she gained a knowledge of her imperfections, by peeping into her looking-glass, which was the first present of the devil, than she must have a whole gown of fig leaves to hide the blotches she got by eating too much fruit; and
 ever

ever afterwards, if old chronicles say true, she led her spouse such a life for new dresses, as had he lived in London, would have made him hang or drown himself. Indeed he and all his poor descendants have been obliged ever since, by the sweat of their brow, to earn finery for their wives and daughters; so that they die at last of mere fatigue and vexation. But I leave the fall and original curse, which from gardeners debased us into kings, lords, and merchants, to be accounted for in this or any other manner that shall please those merciful divines, who, thinking we have not crimes enough of our own, load us with those of a man that lived six thousand years ago, merely to shew the great strength of their rheological engines to raise us with such

such a weight on our backs, up to the third story of a very lofty building.

The second origin of fashion then is the ugly endeavouring, with the utmost address, to hide their deformity. Did the beautiful part of the sex know how much the attention of mankind is taken from the real charms of the face and person, by dress, especially the extravagance of it; and did they consider how great their pre-eminence would be were every lady to use the utmost simplicity in adorning herself, the present fashions would not be adopted. Without the countenance of handsome women the deformed durst not run into extraordinary dresses, as it would be quickly known that it was done to hide blemishes, and would therefore render them more conspicuous.

'Tis

'Tis well, perhaps, for the world, that beauty thus gives arms to others; and brings the ordinary part of the species nearer to a par with herself. Who can look much at a finely proportioned face, when the head is covered with an enormous quantity of cap and hair, extending above a foot on all sides of it, and making the description of high heads in the Spectator appear poor and trifling? Who can find out a naturally elegant shape enclosed as they all are with stays, hoops, or negligees? or espy a delicate complexion when hid and confounded by the glare of pearls, rubies, and diamonds?

Matters are much altered in this nation, since the days of good queen
 Bess,

Befs; or even of Anne, of drinking memory. In their time fashions, like the stage coaches, were several days in getting to Oxford, and so long in making their way to the extremities of the kingdom, and so be-crumpled, be-spattered, and be-de-villed in the execrable rough roads, and jolting bad carriages, that when they arrived at the place of destination, they were either totally unfit, for use, or so altered as to bear no resemblance to the original. A person might then see women nearly as formed by God Almighty; not as at present, with such mountains of wool upon their heads, and in every way so altered by dress, that a native of Tartary would be completely at a loss to know what species of animals they are. Luckily, therefore,
for

for the present time, that our roads are so mended, that a London lady and one in the country, appear of the same species.

It would have puzzled even Scalliger himself, much more uncle Toby to have found the connection between turnpikes and the dress of a lady's head. As both are supposed to be a little vertiginous, he might at first hit upon that; but he would be as far from the mark as Delolme is when he gives so flattering an account of the health and strength of the English constitution since, notwithstanding all he has dreamt concerning the matter, it is very sick and rickety at present.

H

Thanks

Thanks then, dear turnpikes, for the great pleasure I enjoy in seeing the ladies heads at a ball here as nobly enormous as at the Pantheon or Madam Cornelly's ; with such a quantity of gauze upon them as, if cut to advantage, might make a reasonable suit of cloaths. How great an advantage to industry in a trading country, besides the number of French hair-dressers it detains from serving their tyrant at home, or in this his iniquitous impolitic war against our religious king and government ; since each of the two hundred ladies I see before me must have employed a friseur at least half a day to give her head so completely an unnatural appearance. For my own part, when I see a fine lady in all her paraphernalia, I am often tempted

tempted to think her an idol, and fall down and worship her; I being in no danger of thereby breaking the second commandment; since, like many of our antient pictures, she resembles nothing in heaven above, the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth.

H 2 L E T.

L E T T E R XXIV.

York.

AFTER so much baggatelle, shall I say a few words seriously as to York, and the country about it, before I depart hence to be here no more. The gentry (who are more numerous than in any other part of the kingdom) are as sensible, polite, and hospitable as I ever saw; and I admire them for that preference which they give to staying in their own country, where they are loved and respected, above crowding into smoaky London, where they would be unnoticed in the multitude, or tempted to distress their circumstances by living above their fortunes; a too common

mon species of splendid poverty. As the city is not the seat of trade or manufactures, it is proportionably more agreeable to reside in, being free from all dirt and hurry, their necessary consequences. Its places of amusement are numerous, elegant, and crowded: and its circles approach nearer the fashionable ones of London, than perhaps any in the kingdom, there being little of that uncomfortable reserve, the mockery of politeness, which we universally meet among those whose fortune exceeds their education.

I am inclined to think that there is more of the antient British manners preserved here than in most parts of the kingdom. I mean those kindly ties between landlord and tenant

that are now almost forgotten ; but which formerly enabled our barons to meet their sovereign in the field whenever he endeavoured to become what all good courtiers now wish him, despotic. To give you a striking instance of this, the present High Sheriff of the county has in it perhaps the largest estate possessed in one county by any gentleman in the kingdom. His country house, where he almost constantly resides, is the seat of unbounded hospitality ; and he lives in such a state of friendship with a most numerous tenantry, that though none of them during his own, his father's, or his grand-father's time have had any lease, not one of them have been turned out. His lands are likewise let at half their value ; and such confidence is there

there universally placed in the family honour, that nothing is more common than to see the good-will or tenant-right to one of his farms sell by public auction for five hundred or a thousand pounds. His lands are likewise as regularly mortgaged, or rather pawned, by his tenantry, as any in the kingdom. The mode of doing it is this: the lender of the money goes with the farmer, to this gentleman's agent or steward in whose book it is put, opposite to the man's farm, and if not repaid in due time, unavoidable accidents being allowed for, the lender is put in possession of the lands until he is re-paid.

What a terrible calamity would befall the lawyers, were this universal.

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They must all become honest, and perhaps turn button-makers at St. James's to get preferment. My friend says, he would find almost as much pleasure in wearing a set made by a Mansfield or a Wedderburn, as if made by their master himself, as he thinks their genius exactly adapted to this intricate employment. Thanks, however, to court and courtly fashions, there are few Duncombs left in the kingdom.

My friend and I leave York tomorrow in the diligence. How far we shall travel in it, or which way we shall go, depends so entirely upon whim, that I dare not promise you to see Leeds or Manchester, though that be our present intention. If there were a few more such beings in the world,

world, the mutability and fickleness of the women would cease to be proverbial, a consummation devoutly to be wished.

You shall hear frequently from me on the road; for I have not so bad an opinion either of my friend's chemistry or my own, as to suppose we shall not extract precious amusement from occurrences which to others would be a perfect caput mortuum.

LETTER XXV.

L E T T E R XXV.

Tadcaster.

A N ancient author, whom you once read, says, " There is nothing new under the sun." And Mynheer Vanderdendurton, the Dutchman, in the 47th folio volume of his Commentary, page 1213, &c. refers for a proof of this assertion to the history of all ages from the time of Noah; who, with his own hands, built a very awkward ship, properly ycleped an ark or chest, in which he packed, like herrings in a barrel, every species of animal then living; until this present year, when Holland sent out above a thousand herring busses to fish the coast of Scotland, and

and sell to the English and Scotch those very fish caught upon their own shores. The industrious commentator may be right in his proof, if we take history as written by court chaplains, and court historians; or even by those, who, as soon as they can decline a noun, are put to read slavish Roman panagerists or poets; who teach us to reverence Augustus, one of the veriest rascals that ever deformed human nature: and to prefer the heroic butcher Cæsar to the mild philosophic Cicero.

Had our Dutchman been with me to-day, he would have found a new proof of his system. I was coolly chatting with a gentleman in the carriage, upon moral evil, &c. when he assured me that he believed in the
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transmigration of souls. As I had before found him to be a Christian, I could not avoid staring. "Pray Sir, how old are you?" said I, supposing that he had been born in the days of Pythagoras. He gently returned my stare, "Just five-and-forty!" "A good enough number," said I, though it has been treated in so vile a manner by our king and parliament." His declaration and look embarrassed me a little, you perceive. He went on, "I cannot conceive that one so merciful, kind, and gentle as the Supreme Being, should ever damn any one to all eternity; no, not even the devils, who were so justly cast out of heaven for their rebellion; I am therefore persuaded that our souls are nothing more than those devils" (here, lest I should be rude again, I looked the

the other way) " who have been sent into the world to be reclaimed, and as soon as they are so, are again taken into favour : but if at first they continue impenitent, are sent again and again into the world, until they shall all be finally reclaimed and happy." Tho' he had so compleatly be-deviled me, I could have caught my philosopher in my arms ; his sentiments of the Supreme Being so coincided with my own ; and I beg, until we meet, you will drink my honest humane Pythagorean's health in your first glass of claret after dinner ; for I would not have him toasted in so potent a fiery headstrong liquor as port, to which he has not the least resemblance.

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I cannot avoid remarking, that if his system be true, and it seems at least as likely as ninety-nine in an hundred of all the theological systems that have been invented by the school divines, what a set of obstinate devils we are of the present age, who have been sent so often into the world without being reclaimed. I began indeed to suspect something was the matter ever since we went to war with the Americans; and, to support our honour and humanity, cut their throats; to shew our policy, threw them into the arms of the French; and to manifest our excellent Scotch œconomy, spent fifty-millions. to raise a three-penny duty upon tea. This gentleman's system explains the whole difficulty, and makes me think with those learned divines

divines who have predicted a speedy dissolution of this world, that this event cannot be far distant, as it is impossible that a more stubborn perverse set of devils can exist in erebus to people it afresh. We might nearly compute the time it will last, if you can tell me the number now upon the globe, abating the Roman Catholics, who by means of pardons and indulgences go right to heaven; the good people of the church of England, who get absolution for all their sins at their death; the methodists and anabaptists, who receive a complete assurance of divine favour; and the presbyterians, who are among the elect: these, together with the Turks, who die killing infidels, in order to convince their reason of the truth of Mahomet's Coran, go to heaven in leading-strings,

strings; whilst you and I, with all the foolish philosophers who think our devilish reason somewhat to be-attended to, and that doing good to our neighbour is the only way of pleasing the Supreme, must take another trip hither; unless, indeed, a little comely death-bed repentance, with the assistance of a priest, and a good legacy to the church, or charitable uses, should atone for all, and get us with a single jump into the right road. You see, however, that in the next age the world will be very thinly peopled.

LET-

L E T T E R XXVI.

Tadcaster.

ENTER my friend, in the character of a melancholy patriot, harranguing, "Unanimity I find is now the cant word of ministry; be unanimous, and you will be victorious. Let us not be caught with a popular sound, but examine the consequences. Had Varro, after the battle of Cannæ wanted to inculcate this doctrine how would he have succeeded? You have entrusted to my care the finest army that ever left Rome; I have lost it almost to a man; therefore unanimously entrust to me your present army, which is your last and only hope. I have lost your allies, and almost all Italy: I have brought

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you to the very brink of ruin ; therefore unanimously confide every thing to my care and abilities. Fabius, that patriotic villain, dared to predict my fate ; nay, warned me, warned you of it ; therefore, have nothing to do with him, he is a blockhead, take my word for it ; whose penetration you cannot doubt." The Romans would have answered, " We have seen our folly in being guided by weak men, who have wasted the greatest resources the world ever saw ; and finding, from his foreknowledge of events, that Fabius had more wisdom than us all, we have appointed him dictator ; go and obey him, and be happy that we do not think your despised life any compensation for the thousands of better men we have lost ; nor your fortune enough

enough to repay the millions we have through your blunders fruitlessly expended."

Let us for a moment place Lord North upon the stage, haranguing us on unanimity.

"You entrusted this empire to my care, when at peace, and united in all its parts; I have effected a total separation of a large portion of it, and brought you into the most disastrous dangerous civil war; therefore, be unanimous in supporting me; who alone am able to bring about peace, the true end of all war. I have conquered your struggles for the constitution, and made Wilkes, its great supporter, to your eternal disgrace, a poor despised beggar in a

city where mammon alone is worshipped ; therefore trust your liberties in my hands alone. I have expended fifty millions of your treasure, to filch a thousand a year from the Americans ; therefore, trust all your wealth safely in my hands. I have appointed Gage and Burgoyne, whom I now revile ; and Howe, whose character I am endeavouring darkly to assassinate, to conduct the war, and having afterwards endeavoured, by every hidden and open means to shew they were totally unfit for the purpose ; therefore allow me now to go on appointing such others as my clear intellects may persuade me to be proper. Your admirals Graves, Howe, Keppel, and lately Byron, were appointed by me, and have shared a similar fate with the generals,

rals, because they did not do more than human actions to give spirit to my plans; therefore adopt my opinion alone of your admirals. I have borrowed money on the worst of terms, purely to bribe my wretched tools in the house of commons; therefore entrust me with your finances. Foresight is the principle requisite in a statesman; I have foreseen nothing, nay, not even those things which were foretold every day to me by persons of very moderate abilities; I have planned no one measure a-right; I have mis-timed every succour, every expedition; by my total and professed want of abilities, I have brought you to your present condition; therefore, as I am from gallantry and honour resolved to keep my place until you are ruined; nay,

am convinced that my abilities alone, can carry you out ; trust all to me. All the patriots from a Richmond to a Burke, a Barry, a Turner, a Hartley, a Conway, and a Cavendish, have repeatedly predicted to you and to me all that has happened ; therefore trust them not, believe them not ; but suffer me to go on until the property of the whole nation is got into the pockets of my dapper contractors and dependants ; I shall then laugh at your landed interest, with their foolish petitions and remonstrances."

Here dinner coming in, stopped my friend's mouth, and prevented my reply.

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LETTER XXVIII.

Bramham-Moor.

“ THIS is the place, said I to my friend, where the despotic principles of the Stuarts received a total overthrow.” “ By no means, answered he, since we have seen them reproduced under the sanction of a family called to the throne expressly to exclude them. Oh ! Genius of Britain ! said he, (extending his arm towards the spot where the battle was fought) How art thou fallen ? How would those who bled here, fighting the cause of Liberty, and who by their death struck a terror to all living tyrants, whilst history shall remain, blush could they view their degenerate progeny of the present day.” As he saw me affected, he went on with greater coolness.

“It must seem surprising to many, how so great, united, and flourishing an empire as we possessed; should, in the short space of nineteen years, (for it is not quite so much since the accession of the present king) have become so small, distracted, and feeble. It may justly be asserted, that the most wicked prince that ever sat upon a Persian, Roman, or even German throne, assisted by the worst and weakest Scotch ministers, could not produce such a change. I know that in saying so, I shall have every person in the nation against me; every one wishing to throw the fault upon any one but where it ought to lie, upon himself. The fact is, it is not the king it is not the ministry, it is not the hundred thousand unprincipled tools whom they

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command; it is not the opposition, nor all the Whig or Tory interest that has ruined the kingdom; but it is that total want of genius and abilities which is conspicuous to every one, except ourselves; in every art, in every science, the chasm is too deplorable. Where is there now a Coke, or a Raymond, a Sydenham or a Harvey, a Tillotson or a Clark, a Newton or a Bacon, a Locke or a Sydney, a Burleigh or a Nassau, a Talbot or a Marlboro', a Blake or a Russel, a Hampden or a Pym? Instead of these, law is presided over by quibblers and bullies; physic, by persons educated as apothecaries; who, tho' they now shine as eminent physicians, are scarcely fit to be apothecaries journeymen; divinity, by the enthusiasts or fanatics, who preach up cutting

of throats ; philosophy, by analysers of nutshells and weighers of mites ; politics, by the echoes to disputing societies and porters tap-rooms. Our statesmen are the under secretaries in offices, who plan blundering acts of parliament and royal proclamations ; our generals just fit to appear at a review ; our admirals to command royal yachts ; and our patriots to brawl in the senate, or to sign protests, which though they threaten much, mean nothing at all."

During the height of my friend's career, I knew he could not be stopped, therefore suffered him to run down like an alarum, and when he had finished wound him up a-new, by observing, that there was still some genius and goodness left in the nation,

nation, as he himself must allow, when he recollected a Campden, a Pringle, a St. Asaph, a Priestley, a Price, a Fox, a Carleton, a Hawke, and a Rockingham; and that it must farther be remarked, that all the truly great men he had enumerated had not flourished together, but in various æras. Hence it might be doubted whether genius was not distributed with great equality at all times on the face of the globe.

This argument, which I knew to be strongly addressed to his feelings, seemed a little, and but little, to change his opinion.

“Allowing then, your position, said he, is there not a total want of judgment in the nation to discern
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and bring forward men of genius ; or how could the present weak, almost idiot ministry, be in power, when there are so many men of real sense and understanding still in being to save us from destruction ? Are not the whole people guilty of the very same error we always see in a weak prince ; that is, they universally dread men of superior abilities, lest they might look into them, and perceive their weakness and nothingness. Look around, and you will see that the mean sycophant, the man who from conscious weakness studies outward shew and appearances ; in short, the quack in every art and profession, is the only one who is employed. This folly has lost us America ; and will, if not corrected, lose us our lands, properties, and liberties at home.

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To get rid of the discourse, I, whom you know to be a steady courtier, proposed to ramble about the town of Leeds, at which we were arrived, to cool us. Probatum est.

LET.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

Leeds.

WE had not walked far, when we joined a young lady, who appeared to be just recovered from the small-pox. I could not avoid beholding with pity the ravages they had obviously made in her countenance; but my companion was much more struck, having remembered her lately in the height of beauty. She now had lost an eye, had her face totally disfigured by seams and scars, and was evidently falling into a consumption. I could not avoid asking, whether inoculation was practised in that country? She sighed, and said, it was, with the greatest success;

success; and that her father, having
 lost four children by the natural
 distemper, had resolved to have her,
 who alone remained to him, prepar-
 ed for that purpose; but meeting
 with a pamphlet of Baron Dimfdale's,
 wherein the general hurtfulness of
 the practice was demonstrated, he, be-
 ing a conscientious man, had unfor-
 tunately left her a prey to that in-
 fernal plague; and she was only
 happy that she should not live long
 to keep one of the kindest parents
 in constant remembrance of his error
 and credulity. We were both much
 affected, and therefore speedily left
 her to recover our good-humour. The
 subject, however, recurred to us when
 alone. "Do you think, said my friend,
 that the Baron was serious in this
 evidently masked battery he has
 played

played off against inoculation? or did he only mean to shew, that Londoners are as credulous now as when they crowded to see a man corked up in a quart bottle, and afterwards leaping down his own throat? For my own part, said he, I have anxiously expected in every news-paper that he would discover the jest and laugh heartily at his countrymen for the great deference they paid to a name in a matter purely to be decided by reasoning; and, my dear Sir, said he, apostrophising his baronship, be so good to us plain mortals, to write your next pamphlet that you distribute to every coffee-house in town, and alehouse in the country, in such a manner as that it may be understood whether you are for or against the practice.

practice. I could not avoid smiling at my friend's opinion, but told him I viewed the matter in a different light; the baron, I was informed was a quaker; a sect which he knew took great pleasure in mortifying the flesh; and, as I believed he would agree that beauty was perhaps as dangerous a temptation as even money or good cheer, I thought he was perfectly right in endeavouring to lessen the quantity of it among the poor, as it would very much prevent the seduction of them, and save our young men of quality the many crimes they commit in that way. Besides, the baron's religion is the only one that professes a detestation of war, which is principally carried on by means of the poor; now he clearly sees that war

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will never cease so long as there are to be found men who can be persuaded by those great and good personages, recruiting serjeants and corporals, that they become gentlemen and heroes by putting on a prince's livery and learning to shoot, cut, and stab dexterously. To put a stop, therefore, to this royal game, little more is requisite than to prohibit inoculation at present, as the intercourse among mankind is so much increased, that the natural small-pox would make greater havock than formerly; this, together with a small assistance of a fortunate plague or famine now and then, would do the business of those gentlemen scavengers of six feet high, who are employed at the rate of sixpence a day, to clear the earth of the nuisance of too great a load of inhabitants ;

habitants ; a nuisance as detestable to the eyes of kings, as truth is to their ears, or uncorruptibility to their hearts.

My friend, however, still thought that the baron, who must have learned some little civility since he became a banker, could not have treated his antagonists with such scurrility and abuse, had he been serious ; for let him be ever so jealous of men of a superior education intermeddling in a profession which he esteemed to be confined to himself and family, yet still the opinion of gentlemen of sense and learning was to be treated with deference and argument, not with Billingsgate rhetoric and scolding.

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To this I replied, in defence of the worthy, humble, humane, learned, generous, and disinterested baron: my friend re-joined, and we remained, like most other disputants, each of his own opinion still.

LET

L E T T E R XXIX.

Leeds.

WHETHER the air of familiarity with which I entered the room, or the frank manner with which I stretched forth my hand to him, discovered me to be an old acquaintance, I know not, but he saluted me instantly by my name. And how, my good old fellow-student, did you know me, after fourteen years separation?" I needed not to have asked a question, my own heart answered; affection in a moment assumed the place of memory, and re-traced every feature in his face. On my way to his house I had pleased myself with the

idea of the suspense I should occasion in his mind by desiring him to recollect an old acquaintance. I never met with a more agreeable disappointment. "Neither time, absence, nor all the change from youth to manhood, have been able to blot me from your remembrance; and I thank you most sincerely, my dear Sir, for the place I have so long held in your heart."

The first conversation between friends who have been long separated, must ever be very incoherent: the heart so unavoidably thrusts itself into every sentence that the judgment cannot get room to exercise itself: we asked innumerable questions without waiting for an answer, and often replied to such as had not been

been required. We walked out, when we had got rid of that flurry and agitation, which I need not describe to persons who have feeling hearts, and they who have them not would do well to procure them as fast as possible, since perhaps they will do fully as well with the great porter St. Peter, as any mandate of a pope or a priest for admission. The loss is, there is but one shop to buy them at. No! I don't mean that great building with a steeple; 'tis that little half-thatched hovel where meekness and adversity sit chilled by the dropping rain and cold, surrounded by their almost naked family, patiently eating their scanty pittance, and even offering some of their meagre store; not in a godly manner, like king Alfred to a pilgrim,

the slothful son of superstition, but to the stranger, whom the impending storm has driven to their wretched dwelling to seek shelter from a part of its violence.

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L E T T E R X X X .

Leeds.

I N viewing the environs of Leeds, I could not avoid being charmed with the prospect. The variety of boldly rising hills crowned and skirted with delightful woods; the winding vallies, watered with canals or meandering rivers; the land in the highest state of cultivation, and a greater number of beautiful houses than I had ever seen, except about London; altogether gave me the highest idea of the population of the country, and the industry and wealth of its inhabitants. My mind was filled with the most pleasing reflections. An interruption of my agreeable reverie
gave

gave me an opportunity of remarking to my friend, with transport, the vast number of gentlemens seats I saw. " These are only merchants houses, said he." I never felt myself more hurt in my life. All my enthusiastic dream vanished in a moment, and I entered with that constitutional warmth that characterizes all my movements, into the defence of the most useful class of men, and a profession I revere in the highest degree.

I am surprised and hurt, my dear friend, to hear such an observation from you. That in a country like ours, owing all its greatness to trade, a man of liberal education and ingenuous mind, should join with the ignorant or the haughty in despising and undervaluing it, is beyond my comprehension. But even to put our
power

power and wealth derived from it out of the question, and to view it free from all selfishness in a philosophical light. What country, where it was unknown, ever possessed politeness or civilization? Is it necessary to look into the Grecian history to give an answer? There we shall see Athens, the mistress of politeness, unrivaled in trade as well as arts; the mother of historians, orators, poets, mathematicians, and philosophers; adorned with the most splendid edifices; and cultivating every science by which man can be benefitted or rendered happy. Whilst her rival Sparta, despising commerce, subsisting by the miserable labour of slaves, lived a dark gloomy unsocial life, cultivating no arts but adultery, theft, rapine, and cruelty; fostering

fostering scarcely one enlightened genius in the space of five hundred years ; and even in war, which she first reduced to a hellish system of police, producing scarcely one deserving the name of a general ; but gaining all her victories like the Scythians or Tartars, by her natural ferocity, cherished by education, and hardened by example.

But to bring the matter to our own times, are the Tartars, the Cossacks, the Calmucs, the Russians, or the Indian Savages to be our masters in politeness ? No ! civility is derived from every person feeling the necessity and advantage of the aid which he derives from the meanest artisan, in supplying the artificial wants which always arise in a large and luxurious society.

society. Luxury, therefore, and politeness ever go hand in hand, and without trade luxury must perish for want of food.

My friend brought an objection from France and Holland. But this appears of little weight ; as it requires a long time for causes to produce their effects upon large societies, and Holland has only lately emerged from poverty and slavery ; yet I believe no one will deny that the manners of its people are considerably polished within the last two hundred years. France also, though its gentry affect to despise trade much more than our's, has nevertheless for many centuries enjoyed a great degree of it, and has likewise possessed its present form of government for a longer time than any country

country in Europe; which must have had a great influence in giving natural causes their full effect and influence.

LET.

L E T T E R X X X I.

Bradford.

A TRAVELLER has vast advantages, who can at first view see into the various characters of the persons he converses with, and extract at once their wisdom or their folly, as they happen to predominate, or as philosophy or ridicule is uppermost in his own mind. For my part, I am not at all like the wise-acre who told Socrates his faults from the wrinkles of his old withered face; and am therefore as apt as the world in general is, to be deceived by a grave outside and sanctimonious behaviour. Go on, then, ye good people,

wear

wear your masks as long as one rag on them remains to cover your real countenances ; they are very profitable while they last, make the most of them while you may, for, like all sublunary things, they wear out, and unhappy will ye be, if you have not then laid by gold enough to answer the purpose of a mask for the rest of your lives. Riches confer the reputation of wisdom, honour, benevolence, and all the other virtues under heaven ; and happy is it that they do so, as they frequently appear where the others are perfect strangers. By this you will perceive, my dear Sir, that I am not wealthy.

I met with a mask to-day upon my journey, so good-humoured and innocent, that I must endeavour to give you an account of it. I had
passed

passed some hours with the lady, without the smallest suspicion of her wearing a mask. Her age might be about thirty, if I may judge from the sententiousness of her discourse weighed against a face some years younger. She had speedily turned the conversation upon religious matters, and finding me an infidel, in other words, not a methodist, had laboured much for the good of my poor soul to convince me of the justness of their orthodox doctrines. I shall not give all the reasoning, or cant, as I thought it, of a young girl, far from ugly, to convert a heretic bachelor. As I seldom choose to quarrel with a fair reasoner, I had endeavoured to slip away under cover of changing the discourse, and sometimes of a laugh. And as she had said much about faith and

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good works, I could not avoid telling her that I found she was resolved to have two strings to her bow, which I thought not amiss in one of the weaker sex; but as for myself I thought it more manly to be contented with one. I was besides much afraid that I never should be sufficiently enlightened to understand all the the celestial flights of orthodox methodism, as I had been, perhaps without the smallest reason, very much puzzled by one of their most distinguished preachers, whom I had lately heard devoutly beseeching the Supreme Being to strengthen our faith, for that we could only believe impossibilities, but that he could do them.

A sudden jolt of the carriage, here seemed to threaten us with being over-

overturned. This evidently discomfitted all that I had said, as it was clear to her, that without the special interposition of Providence, we should have been dashed to-pieces down the precipice that lay to our right-hand. In vain I told her that the Supreme Being was not like a watch-maker daily cleaning or mending his own workmanship. And that though she might have large claims upon the favour of Heaven, yet, for my own part, I did not think myself of consequence enough to have the laws of nature, or, to speak more correctly, of Nature's God, set aside purely to save me a broken neck. I know, added I, that in saying so, I am finding fault with most of the liturgies that have ever been formed, the basis of which are entreaties that the Deity

will be more kind to us, than the perfection of his own merciful nature would otherwise prompt him to; or that our wisdom may suggest to him means of helping us, which his own infinite knowledge had passed by. An humble thankful temper seemed to me, I said, much more suitable to poor fallible mortals, whose chief, if not sole adoration of the Deity ought to consist in praise.

All this, which my friend told me afterwards was very clever, not having the smallest effect upon the lady who continued incessantly her battery, I began to think I had all along mistaken her intention, which might be not so much to make me a follower of Wesley as of Hymen. Take my reasons for this in my next.

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LETTER XXXII.

Bradford.

THERE is much good music in the various tones of voice we assume, when in the pursuit of any favourite object. This, together with the wildly warbled notes of the woodland songsters, I think a much more likely origin for music than the sooty blacksmith's anvil, an instrument fit only for the furies ; and which was never imitated by that father of harmony who softened the most stony hearts, and congregated those his sounds had civilized, into cities and humane polished societies. The smith's hammer indeed might be the first means

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of bringing under mathematical calculation an art which, by the exquisite pleasure it imparts, must from the very foundation of the world have exercised the genius and feelings of mankind.

Perhaps it would be as well for the science were the professors of it, even at present, to attend to the pleasing modulations of Nature's choir, rather than the difficult inexplicable jargon, without meaning or end, which goes under the name of Italian music. What indeed is it but the quickest succession of unintelligible sounds, that a performer can produce from some tortured instrument, tiring the ears to endeavour to follow it, and producing no effect upon the mind, but astonishment at the immense labour it obviously costs the artist?

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The case was once otherwise. Then, a number of sounds all adapted to one end, and following each other in time and succession measured with equal propriety, spoke directly to the heart and never failed exciting suitable passions in the hearers; but it must be remarked, that then also Englishmen had some passions, and were not the poor time-serving spiritless dependants on a court, that we now see every where cringing to their superiors, treating their enemies with disrespect, their prisoners with inhumanity, and their inferiors in wealth with insolence and contempt.

Upon attending minutely to the lady's voice, I thought it was neither the Adagio of devotion, the Andante of reasoning, nor the Presto of zeal, yet it seemed to be as distinctly

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marked

marked a voice as I had ever heard. It was the opposite to forte, and the action likewise all corresponding served to confirm me in the opinion that had been handed on by the various inn-keepers and postillions, and that the lady's aim was not quite so high as my head. I resolved to be satisfied. But as you may not understand what I mean, I shall explain this opinion before I go further, that my way may be clear, and rectilinear with you as well as the lady, whom I mean to get rid of in the next letter; that is to say, if no new matter, simile, or whimsey come in the mean time across, and drive me into those zizzag digressive paths, which I think often more delightful to ramble in than the straightest line Pythagoras or Euclid ever chalked out to their disciples.

LET-

LETTER XXXIII.

Bradford.

IF a gentleman sets out from London on a journey, the first postilion who drives him takes care to be informed of his situation in life, the business he is going upon, and every other particular relative to him that comes within a postilion's sphere of understanding. This he relates to the next driver, while the horses are changing, and thus a person is handed on, if he makes the circuit of the kingdom. There are various conveniences in this, not the least of which is the saving of a gentleman the trouble of announcing himself; a thing which
proves

proves sometimes difficult to men who have not studied Chesterfield sufficiently, and thereby learned the happy courtly talent of thinking always superlatively well of their own abilities and acquirements ; in short, of holding, with him, little things in the highest estimation.

It must be owned, however, that sometimes this method of annunciation turns out unfavourably, the report being liable to variation from small accidents, noises, or exclamations in harnessing the horses and fixing the trunks upon the chaise, so that a man may thereby pass for what he is not, or be daubed with a title to which nature and accomplishments never gave him the smallest pretension. Perhaps this may account for many titles created in the present reign,

reign, as I think it will be more advantageous to our fame for posterity to believe that the honours of this age were conferred by drivers of post horses, than to find that they were in general bestowed for the most infamous prostitution of the virtue and understanding of the owners. For my own part, who wish for no honour but what may at the time be my just due, I have more than once found inconveniences from lapses in this way, either accidental or intended; thus in a former tour to France, I found the title of my Lord Anglois so expensive, that I repeatedly strove to get rid of it, but in vain. And at another time in coming from the city of Dublin, formerly so famous for bulls and hospitality, but now
for

for bayonets, the only instructors of the present ministry, I was, together with another gentleman, who possessed all the sweetness of the bee without its sting, handed on above one hundred miles as a most fierce and fatal duellist. We had, it is true, at Holyhead fired a pistol each at a mark for a wager, which had been mistaken for a duel, and before we arrived at Chester, we were reported to have fired seven brace of pistols, and with so deadly an aim that every ball had taken place or touched some of our cloaths. When we got to Shrewsbury, neither postilion nor waiter would attend us without fear and trembling, and the good-natured landlord informing us of the whole affair we were obliged to take a boat down
the

the Severn a considerable way, in order to break off the connection, and prevent our fame from flying before us.

LET.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Bradford.

I PROMISED to get rid of the female enthusiast in my last letter, and kept my word as my friend says Lord North has done his, pledged to the nation every spring of getting rid of the American war that campaign. It is true, seeing the uncertainty of all human things, wars, as well as my own manner of writing, I put a saving clause into the promise; and he thinks it would be well if Lord North always did so, as with due submission to the honest and disinterested band of pensioners, place-men, and contractors, who daily trumpet forth his truth
and

and candor ; it must be acknowledged that he has scarcely told a single truism public or private since he came into place. But, huzza ! he cries, for want of memory and understanding, 'tis that alone can save old England at present ; 'tis that alone can fit a man for being a true subject of George the Third : Lord North's truth, Lord Germaine's courage, Lord Mansfield's justice, and Lord Sandwich's chastity, are now the only watch-words of office.

LET:

LETTER XXXV.

Bradford.

FROM the piano stile of the lady's voice, I conceived that her aim was not so much to convince my reason of the truth of her doctrines, as to interest my heart in her own sense, beauty, and accomplishments. I thought that I had been represented to her as a bachelor, worthy to have an hymeneal net spread for him; I resolved to be satisfied in this conjecture. Changing therefore my manner, I paid the most marked attention to all her arguments, and by my looks and gestures seemed like Pigmalion's statue, warming
with

with a lively sense of the importance of her religious tenets, and above all of the superior brightness of her understanding.

Let me not be stopped here, to be told this cannot be said in dumb shew ; they who doubt it, I may venture to affirm, will never gain the favour of an accomplished woman ; at least until they take a few lessons from Garrick, or some faithful imitator of nature ; for as to the common herd of actors and speakers, they know as little of the matter as themselves.

So soon as I found her prepared to believe me serious, I thanked her for the clear light which she had thrown upon those matters, and which had struck me with the most forcible
M conviction.

conviction. I likewise told her, that if she were shortly going to Manchester or London, and would permit my visiting her, I should have a favour to request, that I hoped the goodness of her heart would incline her not to deny. A favour, I added, of such essential consequence to my future happiness, that if I knew the arguments that were likely to persuade her, I would leave none untried that might have the smallest chance of prevailing.

A half-suppressed smile of approbation that involuntarily spread over a countenance otherwise expressive of a modest confusion, gave me reason to think I had not misconstrued her intention. I proceeded,

“ That

“ That in this age of universal dissipation, to speak in the mildest terms, it gave me singular satisfaction to meet with a young lady of so just a way of thinking; a lady, who with beauty enough to make her universally followed and admired, had yet sense sufficient to prize far above it the more lasting accomplishments of the mind; accomplishments which ensured the happiness of every society where they were justly prized and howsoever the gay and thoughtless might affect to despise them, yet each moment of reflection obliged even such to reverence what they could not obtain, and so to bear ample testimony to their reality and value.”

During this discourse I rivetted my eyes to her countenance, wherein

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smiling

smiling self-complacence appeared obviously caught with my flattery, and preparing another hook more to my taste from my own bait. To come therefore to an eclaircissement, I pursued my harrangue, saying, " That although no one was more convinced of the estimation in which female reserve and circumspection ought to be held, yet I had not long ago privately married a lady of a very opposite way of thinking, whom I was at present in the way to bring to my family and friends, and tho' I greatly admired the candor and vivacity which my wife possessed, yet if they could be tempered with a little of that staidness of behaviour to which I had been a witness in her company and conversation, I should prize them still more : it was for this I meant to become her
suitor;

suitor ; my wife being so extremely young and good-natured her councils would not be slighted, and her excellent example must have an adequate effect."

Have you, my dear friend, seen Pierror's surprise when in the place where some sumptuous banquet before stood; harlequin rises magically upon the stage? or can you conceive what would be Lord North's equally wise face of astonishment, if on a day of voting the supplies, his bands of placemen or pensioners should miraculously turn honest, and insist upon the nation's grievances being redressed before they would vote the money of their constituents into their own pockets? Or, finally, can you figure to yourself the inexpressible

amazement of the aforesaid bands, should they find that disinterestedness, patriotism, and public virtue had ceased to be the jest of almost the whole nation, from the king, who graciously bribes us with a part of our own money to be honest to the scum of the earth, those Lords and Commoners, who with an insatiable lust for pelf wait not to be seduced, but make the most meretricious advances to the ministerial corrupter of the innocence and virtue of the nation.

If I wished to caricature the lady, I might refer you to one of these for her picture, when I made the last speech, but I should do her much injustice. She seemed, it is true, to have heard what she had not expected,

pected, yet her surprise was so momentary, and her good-humour so permanent, that had I not been most earnestly attentive to her countenance, I should scarcely have perceived any variation in it. It was in truth so small, that but for the alteration of her voice, which lost the gently whispering piano stile, retaining however its gravity and sententiousness, I should have been still unconfirmed in my conjecture.

She told me, with a grave smile, if I may be allowed the expression, that her lessons could not be of any service, as she imagined from the description I had given of my wife, she was better suited to my taste than any other lady could possibly be; and that to deprive her of the

smallest portion of her vivacity would only render her less estimable in my eyes. She then gave me a lecture on the duty of husbands ; and on the carriage stopping at this place, took leave of me with great gravity and dignity.

LET-

L E T T E R XXXVI.

Bradford.

“ H O W can you, my friend
said to me, be so dispirited about
the exit of the present war? Consider
whom we have to guide it, a king
so redoubtable in valour, that when
his verriest enemies durst not put his
prowess to the proof, was so fond
of fame, as to go to war with his
own subjects, that he might not be
without a title to the laurel crown.
Then his assistant, God Almighty,
who in all his speeches he assures us,
fights under no banner but his own.
But this help, or bully-back, not be-
ing esteemed sufficient, has he not taken
for

for a prime minister, a man who conducts affairs with equal propriety and success, whether he sleeps in the house of commons, or wakes to compliment his friends with contracts, or his own family with the most valuable places. A secretary of war, who never served a day of a campaign, and a first lord of the admiralty who never was at sea? To add to all these, his choice of a person more immediately to manage the war, has been the wisest that ever prince made since the time of Solomon or Hercules. It is an old adage, that a rogue is fittest to catch a rogue; when therefore we had to deal with the insidious kings of France and Spain, who so fit as an abandoned blasted traitor? But as the Americans were demonstrated by our king
and

and parliament to be all cowards, a second secretary of undoubted personal timidity must have been found to co-operate with the former. Happy are those times in producing a character of such rare and singular baseness, that it must ever be problematical, in which of these qualities he most excels, and whether his country was formerly almost ruined, and now is brought to complete destruction, by his cowardice or treachery. And thrice happy are we in such a genius, finding a king and congenial spirits enough to commit the dearest interests of a powerful empire to their care. Every loyalist in America flies naturally under his sheltering wings, and loudly proclaims by oaths and addresses, what he will do in England, where
in

in reality he cannot be of service, and leaves his native country, where by his own account four-fifths of the inhabitants were ready to second his valiant efforts, had not fifty cowardly rascals, called a congress, discomfited two millions of them. Every rascal at home knows where he is certain of protection and support. With such excellent guides how then can we be unsuccessful?

I here told my friend, that as to the cabinet at home, I did not entertain the smallest doubt of their abilities; nay, I believed they acted by some species of inspiration, or at least divination; since, to my own certain personal knowledge, they had refused to believe, and at sometimes even to listen to the most important intelligence, that was ever offered

ferred to a cabinet since the days of Rehoboam, of wise counsellors, to the present counsellors of Gotham. But I could not avoid being afraid of the manifest superiority of the American generals." As he was going here to reply, I went on to inform him, that I did not allude to Washington, or Arnold; these I allowed were not worthy to be corporals to any of our present redoubtable commanders. I likewise firmly believed with the valorous Germaine, that their troops were a set of the most cowardly rascally raggamuffins that ever disgraced a field of battle, except the French at Minden; and that therefore in imitation of his gallant example, it was much better to run away from such scare-crows than to stain or rust with their plebeian blood our bright swords, and so render

der them unfit for a royal review or levee. I also agreed with all our officers, courtiers, and gazette writers, that our present army and navy, notoriously made up of highway robbers, house-breakers, shop-lifters, swindlers, pick-pockets, thieves, and vagabonds, advanced to the high rank of soldiers by our worthy magistrates, who think cutting of throats an honourable and pious atonement for past crimes. I said I acquiesced in their being the most gallant, brave, and humane army that ever marched to burn peaceful villages, plunder equally friend and enemy, and tomohawk, scalp, or bayonet promiscuously man, woman, and child. Yet still, after all these concessions, I was afraid of the irresistible prowess of some Americans I had not yet mentioned.

In

In the name of wonder, or of patience, or even of your favourite circumlocution, said my friend, disclose to me who are those heroes, those demi-gods, or demi-devils? I told him that they were in truth devilish clever fellows, and that though known to all the rest of the world, they had been over-looked, nay as much despised by the present ministry as our own fighting generals and admirals; and as admiral Hardy would soon be, notwithstanding his intrepidity in offering battle to the French fleet, when out of fight, which he related with equal truth, candour, and modesty in the house of commons; and that in consequence of this fight they had already done us infinite mischief, and most traiterously intended us in future a
 great

great deal more. They had indeed seen much service, and made great havock in European wars ; but America seemed to be the spot destined for their greatest triumph ; the place where with inflexible perseverance and irresistible fury they carried all before them.

My friend now became as impatient as Lord North is when kept from his comfortable nap in the house of commons, by the thundering eloquence of Fox or Barry ; or as all his creatures are when detained from their dinner or the question by speeches founded upon truths which they neither know, nor wish to understand. He began to mutter over the names of the great warriors, from Idanthyrus and Cleomedes, who was esteem-
ed

ed a hero for his excellent knack at slaying children, to the chief of the Mohawks, and colonel Butler, those humane heroic servants of George the Third. In order, therefore, to relieve my friend from his suspence, I told him, that the invincible heroes I alluded to were Generals mountain, river, forest, desert, climate, fever, sickness, famine, and tempest. These, though totally neglected by our counsellors, as of no account, had nevertheless mal-treated and mauled us at Trenton, Quibbleton, Boston, Saratoga, and wheresoever we encountered them.

My friend said, that success in war by no means depended upon advantage of situation, nor courage and gallantry of spirit, as had been

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commonly supposed, but upon strength of body, and obstinate brutality of mind. For this reason the Germans, Russians, and especially the Tartars, had always been, and would continue to be the greatest heroes and conquerors in the world; and, if I considered well, he said, the gentlemen soldiers who composed the British army, I would see sufficient reason why even the generals that I spoke of could not give victory to the Americans, their army consisting of citizens, who had a portion of human nature in their composition.

LET.

LETTER XXXVII.

Hallifax.

FROM whence arises the universal belief which the female sex give to the falsest and most mischievous of all assertions, that a reformed rake makes the best of husbands. May it not be owing to the greatest part of our plays and novels, painting this vile artful wretch with all the most brilliant seducing colours, whilst his selfishness, hypocrisy, want of feeling, nay worse, his base cruelty to those who love and trust him, are thrown to so distant a ground, as not to be perceptible. By this deception, and by misleading young

minds as to the probable end of any imprudent line of conduct, and also by placing the dernier reward of all their virtuous characters, if they happen to have any truly such, in the acquisition of wealth and titles; thus setting forth the stately trappings of vice, and not an approving conscience, and heart-felt content, as the adequate recompences of meritorious conduct, these performances have done more harm, than they can possibly do good, by inculcating some insipid moral, that is only brought in at last as a cloak to the whole tenor of the piece, which almost in every line tends to inflame and corrupt the young unexperienced heart.

What one qualification for a married state does a rake possess? Is a
perpetual

perpetual round of vice the way to attain a love for virtue? or is folly and dissipation the method to acquire dignity and steadiness? does he not, by a constant intercourse with the vicious part, gain a habitual contempt for the whole sex; or by his successful efforts to debauch modest women, lay up a fund of jealousy in his nature, to torment his future wife? Is an enervated diseased body, or a mind as weakened by pleasure and total want of rational employment, the desirable companion for a sensible amiable woman? Can she look up to such a husband as her virtuous support, judicious adviser, steady friend, and uniform lover through life? In all other acquisitions industry, practice, and habit, are requisite to give perfection; but

were the maxim I am arraigning just, they would be totally unnecessary. A man might expect after one night to start up, by inspiration, a judicious lawyer, physician, or divine, and would have just the same chance of success they have, who rely upon sudden elevations from the depths of vice, to the heights of virtue and honour.

I never knew but one rake who truly reformed, and even he was unaltered until he had been long scourged by adversity, that only school-master for pride, selfishness, and debauchery. He had been kept in prison for some years, where he contracted a constant asthma, and having lost his nose by one disorder, an eye by another, and the use of
his

his hands and limbs by the gout; on coming out not worth a shilling in the world, and without a single relation that would own or assist him, he fully convinced me of his reformation by not putting an end to his wretched existence, like many others of the same class; but protracting his being by an honourable and virtuous employment, when compared with his former mode of life, that is, by begging.

Were the sex but to see, as I did to-day, one of their brightest ornaments, who some years ago gave her hand, which was sought by a number of admirers; her heart, which would have been valued by a savage, to one of those accomplished heroes, they might have some conception of their
their

their error. She had scarcely become his wife, until she found that all the tender homage, which during courtship he had pretended to pay her, was only a rotine of words without meaning, that were equally at the service of any other woman who would listen to his parrot-like tale. His heart, totally incapable of any real attachment, must be constantly excited by variety, or it sunk into lifeless indifference. Her own elegance of person, delicacy of sentiment, and dignity of virtue, all fell down before his idolized variety ; to whose undistinguishing taste the ugly and the old, the foolish and the mean, were equally agreeable with the most accomplished of the sex. Her health suffered materially by disorders, which he acquired by imprudent

prudent connections. Her very servants were often the sharers of his favours; and whilst no virtuous female would partake her company, for fear of being exposed to his seduction, she found herself debarred all society of the other sex, lest she might awake his Argus-ey'd jealousy. His expences were without bounds, while she was without the smallest participation of his pleasures, or any of the comforts of life.

For years without one repining word did she bear sorrows, to which all the fabled ones of lovers in play or romance are trifling; sorrows which preyed the more upon her spirits, as even to her most intimate friends she made the shew of being a contented happy wife; nor
would

would she ever permit the smallest imputation upon his constancy to be repeated in her hearing. By this angelic conduct she always hoped to reclaim a man, the attainment of whose heart was her highest ambition. And when she bore him three lovely children, found such pleasure in the thought of their assisting to recall his wandering affections, as to forget her own pains and disappointments. What savage would have been insensible to this behaviour; but I do injustice to savages, 'tis only the polite Chesterfieldean rake, the selfish courtly man of mode and fashion, upon whom it can have no effect.

At last she was roused from her dream of long expected happiness, by finding

finding that her husband was gone
 out of the kingdom with another
 man's wife; a low unmannered wretch,
 whom the meanest drummer in his
 regiment would have despised; and
 to add to his cruelty, he had disposed
 of, and carried with him all his ef-
 fects; although his whole fortune had
 been conferred upon him by the very
 wife he deserted. Parental affection
 alone prevented her sinking under
 this stroke. Long she continued to
 support herself and children by those
 elegant arts of the needle, which she
 had formerly practised for amusement.
 At last an old relation dying, left her
 a genteel independence. But what to
 others would be a means of happi-
 ness, leaves her affliction greater li-
 berty to prey upon her. Her children
 have not now the same need of her
 support

support and protection, and she seems falling into a consumption, brought on by grief for a husband, who she has every reason to suppose died a deservedly ignominious death; and remorse for having preferred his shewy accomplishments to solid virtue; and, perhaps having given way to an unworthy desire of snatching from a number of rivals the man she saw so many doat on to their destruction.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.